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A MEMOIR

OF THE

LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF

HON. TEUNIS G. BERGEN,

OF NEW UTRECHT,

(WITH PEDIGREES.)

By SAMUEL S. PURPLE, M.D.

NEW YORK:
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MEMOIR.

Hon. Teunis G. Bergen, whose contributions to family history, through the pages of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record and elsewhere, have rendered his name familiar to its readers, and who was a corresponding member of this Society, died of pneumonia, at his residence, at Bay Ridge, New Utrecht, L. I., April 24, 1881. He was born in the town of New Utrecht, on the 6th of October, 1806, and was the eldest child of Garret Bergen and Jane Wyckoff, his wife. His early youth was mainly spent between work on his father's farm at Gowanus, and at the common school of the district. As youth merged into manhood, he applied himself to the study and practice of surveying, and soon became proficient in that important profession. It was, doubtless, through the information he obtained in the discharge of the duties of a surveyor, in his native town, that he acquired that careful and thorough knowledge requisite to the right understanding of the ancient Dutch Records and Land Titles, and which made him so familiar with all that appertained to the legal and social history of the earliest settlers of ancient Meryckawick, or Breuckelen, and their descendants. To the main duties of an active life he added those of a farmer, and not forgetting those he owed to the community in which he resided, he faithfully discharged such as were imposed upon him by the choice of his fellow-citizens, as soldier, civilian, and statesman. He held the offices of Ensign, Captain, Adjutant, Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia, and finally that of Colonel of the 241st regiment. He held the office and performed the duties of Supervisor of the town of New Utrecht for twenty-three years in succession, or from April, 1836, to April, 1859, and from 1842 to 1849 was Chairman of the Board. He was a member of the Constitutional Conventions of the State in 1846 and 1867 and 1868, and repeatedly a member of Democratic State Conventions. He was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, held at Charleston, S. C., in 1860, and opposed the adoption of the resolutions of that body which caused the breach between the Northern and Southern Democratic party.

The last and most notable public office which he held by the choice of his fellow-citizens was that of Representative in Congress from the Second Congressional District of this State. In 1864 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives over his opponent the "Union candidate," by a majority of 4,800. In that body his party was in a small minority, but true to Dutch principles, inherited on all sides through such an ancestry, he stood firm to his party up to the completion of his term of service. This office was the last which he held, and on retirement from public and professional duties, he devoted his leisure hours to the entertaining and praiseworthy work, which crowning events prove was the enchanting dream

of his life. Long before he entered upon his last public duties, he had become an expert in all that related to the history of the Dutch and their descendants on Long Island. For he had, on repeated occasions, rendered important aid to many writers engaged in historical work, and had left frequent exhibitions of his scholarly and accurate attainments, in the departments of local and family history.

His inquiries into the history of the first settlers of Long Island, and their customs and official laws, as handed down in the city and church records, have been both numerous and important. All who have had occasion to examine the Manuals of the Common Council of Brooklyn, which have been published, have found there recorded many of his exact and useful papers. His untiring and self-sacrificing researches into the almost obsolete records of the ancient Dutch churches of Long Island and New York have unearthed numerous and important materials for the use of modern historians, while his discovery in out-of-the-way places of many of the detached birth, baptismal, and marriage records, and the restoration of the same, has conferred inestimable benefits upon the genealogist and antiquary. He was one of a small, and rapidly passing away number who spoke the Dutch language fluently, and was competent (according to the statement of one who is good authority and knew him well) to decipher the ancient Dutch records accurately. The success which followed his untiring efforts in tracing the pedigrees of the descendants of the earlier Dutch Settlers of New Netherland, and in solving the difficulties consequent upon the changing forms of Dutch family nomenclature, has been most positive and useful; and it can be safely said, has not been equalled, unless by the labors of Prof Pearson of Schenectady, and those of our late associate Edwin R. Purple, whose list of Dutch aliases has conferred a lasting benefit upon those engaged in this division of family history.

His published writings have been numerous and important. The earliest in distinctive form were contributed to the local newspapers in his vicinity, but those which will be most sought after, and will continue so to be, and will prove most useful to genealogical inquirers, are to be found in the volumes of the NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD. The first to its pages may be found in vol. 4, p. 39, being entitled, "*Records of the Births of the Society of Friends at Gravesend, L. I.*," commencing in 1665; then follow, on page 150, *The Van Dyke Family;* and, on page 199, the "*Marriage Records, Gravesend, L. I.*," commencing in 1664; vol. 5, p. 68, contains A List of Deaths in Capt. Grant's Company in 1762; vol. 7, p. 152, "*The Monfoort Family;*" p. 174, "*Prisoners of the Revolutionary War;*" vol. 8, p. 62, "*The Martense Family;*" vol. 9, p. 126, "*Contributions to the History of the Early Settlers of Kings County, N. Y.*," being the *Brouwer Family;* vol. 10, p. 85, a second contribution, being "*Memorials of Francois D'Bruynne;*" and page 155, a third contribution being "*The Van Dayn Family.*" These contributions comprise portions of a large work on which he had been for a long time occupied, and preparing for the press, entitled a "*Register of the Early Settlers and Freeholders of Kings County, N. Y., from its First Settlement by Europeans, to 1700, with Biographical Notices and Family Genealogies.*" To him are our subscribers indebted for the preparation of the Index to Names in volumes ten and eleven of the RECORD, and this Society for gratuitous labor in comparing and correcting the copy of the Reformed Dutch Church Records, which has been made at the sole expense of one of our most

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worthy members. He also made frequent contributions to the department of Notes and Queries of the RECORD. In 1866 appeared the first edition of his history of "*The Bergen Family*," an octavo of 298 pages, and shortly after 4 pages of additions and corrections to the work; in 1867 his account of his wife's ancestry, entitled the "*Genealogy of the Van Brunt Family*, 1653–1867," an octavo of 80 pages. But the crowning labor of his well-spent life, so far as family history is concerned, was a greatly improved and augmented edition of the work noticed in vol. 7, p. 95 of the RECORD, entitled, "THE BERGEN FAMILY; OR, THE DESCENDANTS OF HANS HANSEN BERGEN, ONE OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN, L. I., WITH NOTES ON THE GENEALOGY OF SOME OF THE BRANCHES OF THE COWENHOVEN, VOORHEES, ELDERT, STOOTHOOF, CORTELYOU, STRYKER, SUYDAM, LOTT, WYCKOFF, BARKELOO, LEFFERTS, MARTENSE, HUBBARD, VAN BRUNT, VANDERBILT, VANDERVEER, VAN NUYSE, AND OTHER LONG ISLAND FAMILIES." This important work was printed and published in 1876 by the veteran genealogical printer, the late Joel Munsell, of Albany, who was a life member of this Society, and is comprised in a handsome octavo volume of 658 pages. In 1878 appeared his "*Genealogy of the Lefferts Family*, 1650–1878," an octavo of 172 pages. This, too, was printed and published by the late Joel Munsell. In 1873 he contributed to the first volume of "Our Home," a monthly magazine published at Somerville, N. J., a series of four articles on the early Dutch settlers who removed from Kings Co., N. Y., to different parts of New Jersey. This series form an exceedingly important contribution to the history of the Dutch settlers of New Jersey. In 1877, at the celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Utrecht, L. I., he delivered an "Address on the Annals of New Utrecht," abounding in historical interest. This address was published with the Proceedings of the Celebration, for private circulation, under the Direction of the Consistory in 1877. But it must not be supposed that the foregoing comprises all of his literary labors. He left in manuscript (beside the work which we have noticed) —the "*Register of the Early Settlers*," which was being printed at the time of his death—"*A History of New Utrecht, L. I.*;" and also translations of several important manuscripts relating to the early settlement of what is now Kings County.

Mr. Bergen was a man of simple habits and few wants. In the language of one who knew him intimately,* "he adhered always to plain, honest lines of activity, caring in no degree whatever for upstart distinctions, proud of the fact that he was a farmer, bearing upon his body the evidence that by the sweat of his brow and the labor of his hands he earned the right to a comfortable footing in the world, his chief pride was that his neighbors had unqualified confidence in his integrity. He was a power in his rural district, because his neighbours could say of him with certainty as Burns declared of Gavin Hamilton:

> What ance he says he winna break it,
> What's no his ain he winna take it.

Because of this trust in him he came to be frequently called upon by them to do public service." In point of culture and interest in matters of history, he exhibited a disposition worthy of the warmest admiration. As before stated, he spoke the Dutch tongue with fluency and delighted to dilate

* Hon. H. C. Murphy.

upon its beauties. "As the President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau, he figured as a sort of literary and social St. Nicholas, vindicating the past against the future, and imparting to the material struggles of every day a flavor of the pleasant but vanishing traditions of the fatherland." Personally he was an industrious, staid, and sober citizen, and a thorough Dutchman of the old school in all things. He was a regular attendant upon the church of his ancestors, and quite liberal in all his views, he thought and believed that every man should be allowed to steer his own course, so long as he did not prevent his neighbors from exercising the same right.

As a corresponding member, he did honor to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society; never for one moment forgetting its aims and objects, he contributed liberally his time and writings to further all its interests. To conclude, the history of his literary life is one whose work has been well performed. The accuracy of his writings in all their material import is unquestionable. He died with his buckler girded upon him. His last work was upon the Index to names of the present volume of the RECORD. Cut down suddenly, like a sheaf of corn ripe in its season, his bereaved widow and children, friends, neighbors, fellow-citizens, this society—all will miss him, and who is there that can fill the void thus created?

From his own writings we have compiled his pedigree, both paternal and maternal, and they are herewith presented to the reader.

BERGEN PEDIGREE.

HANS HANSEN BERGEN, the common ancestor of the Bergen family of Long Island, New Jersey, and their vicinity, was a native of Bergen, in Norway, a ship carpenter by trade, and removed from thence to Holland. He emigrated to New Amsterdam in 1633. His name appears in the ancient land and church records in various forms, as follows: Hans de Boer (farmer), Hans Noorman, Hans Hanszen, Hans Hanszen Noorman, Hans Hanszen de Noorman, Hans Hanszen Van Bergen in Noorwegan, Hans Hansen, and Hans Hansen Bergen. It was not till near the close of the seventeenth or the commencement of the eighteenth century that the descendants of Hans Hanszen fairly adopted the surname of Bergen. Hans Hansen m. in New Amsterdam in 1639 Sara Rapalje, dau. of Jores Jansen Rapalje, incorrectly said to have been the first white child of European parentage born in the colony of New Netherland. She was, however, probably the first female child so born. They had issue, 1, Anneken, bap. July 22, 1640; 2, Brecktje, bap. July 27, 1642; 3, Jan, bap. April 17, 1644; 4, MICHAEL, or MIGGIEL, bap. November 4, 1646; 5, Joris, bap. July 18, 1649; 6, Marretje, bap. October 8, 1651; 7, Jacob, bap. September 21, 1653; 8, Catalyn (a twin with Jacob), bap. November 30, 1653. Hans Hansen d. probably early in 1654, and his widow m. early in 1655, Teunis Gysbertizen Bogaert.

MICHAEL, or MIGGIEL HANSEN BERGEN, bap. November 4, 1646, m. Femmetje Theunis, dau. of Theunis Nyssen, of Gowanus, the ancestor of the Denyse family of Kings Co. and New Jersey (this name is spelt variously on the colonial and church records, Nysse, Nysen, Niessen, and Denyse). He held civil office in several years from 1681 to 1689, and in 1686 was one of the patentees named in Dongan's patent. He espoused the cause of the people in the revolution of 1689, and was a firm supporter of Lieut.-

Gov. Jacob Leisler, the proto-martyr of American liberty, who was unjustly condemned and executed, together with his son-in-law Milborne. His name appears among the thirty who were excepted in a bill "for pardoning such as have been active in the late disorders," passed May 16, 1691, by the first Assembly which met under the administration of Gov. Sloughter, Leisler's successor. Michael Hansen and his wife above-mentioned had issue: 1, Sara, bap. June 2, 1678; 2, Teunis, bap. May 16, 1680; 3, HANS, bap. March 11, 1689; 4, Femmetje; 5, Mary.

HANS MICHIELZSE, or HANSE BERGEN, bap. March 11, 1689, m. Rachel, dau. of Derick Bensing, or Benson, spelled various ways on the colonial and church records, viz., Bensick, Bensingh, Bensing, and Benson. He was a baker, and resided near Brooklyn Ferry. They had issue: 1, Annetje, bap. March 12, 1710; 2, Fiesje, bap. June 9, 1711; 3, Meighiel, bap. Dec. 20, 1712; 4, Femmetje, bap. July 29, 1715; 5, Derick, bap. February 28, 1718; 6, Hans, bap. July 12, 1721; and TUNIS, bap. October 15, 1730.

TUNIS BERGEN, bap. Oct. 15, 1730, m. April, 1760, Annetie, or Johanna, dau. of Gerrett Stoothoft, of Flatlands, whose common ancestor in New Netherland was Elbert Elbertsee. She was b. Feb. 21, 1743, and d. July 23, 1819. He held military and also civil office in Brooklyn. They had issue: 1, Rachel, b. August 15, 1761; 2, Lammetje, b. October 13, 1762; 3, Johannes, or Hans, b. September 23, 1764; 4, Johanna, or Antje, b. October, 1766, d. March 4, 1771; 5, Femmetje, b. August 4, 1769; 6, GARRET, b. January 11, 1772; 7, Teunis, b. May 16, 1774; 8, Johanna, or Annetie, b. October 2, 1776; and 9, Sarah, b. March 10, 1782.

GARRET BERGEN, b. January 11, 1772, m. January 6, 1806, Jane, dau. of Peter Wyckoff, of Gowanus. She was b. April 3, 1787. Her paternal pedigree is given in this article. He was a man of sterling integrity, held civil and church office in Brooklyn, and d. February 26, 1845; she d. February 20, 1872. They had issue: 1, TEUNIS G., b. October 6, 1806; 2, Peter G., b. March 31, 1808; 3, Johannah, b. July 9, 1810, d. September 25, 1813; 4, Lammentie, b. Oct. 6, 1812; 5, John G., b. December 4, 1814; 6, Garret G., b. April 6, 1817; 7, Johanna, b. August 30, 1819; 8, Jane Strycker, b. Nov. 4, 1821; 9, Jacob Conover, b. January 22, 1826; 10, Francis H., and 11, Michael S., twins, b. March 3, 1828.

TEUNIS G. BERGEN, b. October 6, 1806, the subject of our sketch, and the eminent historian of the Van Brunt and Bergen families, m. December 10, 1827, Elizabeth, dau. of Rulef Van Brunt, of Bay Ridge, New Utrecht. She was b. July 24, 1804, and her pedigree is given in his history of the Van Brunt family, published in 1867 by Munsell, of Albany. They had issue: 1, Jane, b. April 24, 1830; 2, Gertrude, b. Oct. 9, 1831; 3, Garret T., b. July 4, 1833; 4, Lamena, b. April 27, 1835; 5, Elizabeth C., b. April 13, 1837; 6, Johanna, b. April 1, 1839; and 7, Van Brunt, b. April 29, 1841.

WYCKOFF PEDIGREE.

PETER CLAESEN WYCKOFF, the common ancestor of the Wyckoff family in this country, emigrated from Netherlands in 1636, and settled in Flatlands, where he purchased land, and where in 1655 he superintended the bouwery and cattle of Petrus Stuyvesant, as per contract between the parties, and recorded on the colonial records under date of July 10,

1655. He was a magistrate of New Utrecht in 1655, 1658, 1662, and 1663, and was in February, 1664, one of the representatives at the convention held at Midwout, for the purpose of sending delegates to Holland, to lay before the States General and West India Company the distressed state of the country. He was also one of the patentees in the town charters of 1667 and 1686. He m. Gretie, dau. of Hendrick Van Ness. He d. after 1695. *Issue*—1. Annetje Pieterse; 2, *Mayken* or *Maria Pieterse*, who m. WILLEM WILLEMSE, of Gravesend; 3, Geertie Pieterse, who m. March 17, 1678, Christoffel Janse Romeyn, of Flatlands; 4, Claes Pieterse, who m. Sara Monfoort; 5, Cornelis Pieterse, m. October 13, 1678, Gertrude Simons, dau. of Simon Van Arsdalen; 6, Hendrick Pieterse, who m. Helena ——. He d. December 6, 1744, without issue, leaving, by his will, dated July 25, 1741, his farm in Flatlands, to Johannes Willemse, a grandson by his sister Mayken or Maria, on condition that he assumed the name of Wyckoff; 7, Garret Pieterse, m. Katharine ——; 8, Martin Pieterse, who m. May 17 or 27, 1683, Hannah Williamse, and after her death m. Moycah ——; 9, Pieter Pieterse, who m. Willmetje ——; 10, Jan Pieterse, born February 16, 1665, m. Neltie, dau. of Willem Kouwenhoven.

WILLEM WILLEMSE, of Gravesend, and Mayken or Maria had *issue:* 1, PETER WILLEMSE, bap. April 16, 1682; 2, Marretje Willemse, bap. April 12, 1685; 3, Aannetje Willemse, bap. May 29, 1695.

PETER WILLEMSE, of Gravesend, son of Willem and Mayken or Maria had *issue:* 1, JOHANNES WILLEMSE (who assumed the surname of Wyckoff in pursuance of his great uncle Hendrick Pieterse Wyckoff's will), born January 1, 1721, m. 1742, Johanna or Annetje, dau. of Joost Debevoise, of the Wallabout.

JOHANNES WILLEMSE WYCKOFF, of Flatlands, son of PETER WILLEMSE and Annetje Debevoise, had *issue:* 1, Henry or Hendrick, born January 22, 1742–3, m. October 27, 1764, Sarah Emmans; 2, Joost or George, b. November 20, 1745, m. December 15, 1768, Sarah, dau. of Daniel Luyster, of Newtown; 3, PETER, of Gowanus, b. May 19, 1748, m. October 19, 1771, Lammetje, dau. of Peter Lott, of Flatbush; 4, Maria or Mary, b. April 2, 1752, m. (1st) John Emmans, of New Utrecht, m. (2d) Nicholas Van Brunt, of New Utrecht; 5, John or Johannes, b. March 6, 1760, m. February 9, 1781, Etie or Margaret, dau. of Albert Terhune, of Gravesend; 6, Johanna or Annatie, b. July 7, 1761, m. 1778, William Kouwenhoven, of Flatlands.

PETER WYCKOFF and Lammetje Lott of Gowanus had *issue:* 1, Nelly, b. December 3, 1772, m. David Kelsey; 2, Annatie, b. April 3, 1775, d. young; 3, Annetie or Joanna, b. September 2, 1778, m. John Bergen, of Queens Co.; 4, Peter, b. October 24, 1781, m. April 9, 1806, Mayke, dau. of Jaques Van Brunt, of New Utrecht; 5, John, b. December 8, 1784, m. (1st) Elizabeth, dau. of Stephen Hendricksen, m. (2d) Deborah Smith, widow of Thomas Adams; 6, JANE, b. April 3, 1787, m. January 6, 1806, GARRET BERGEN of Gowanus. She was the mother of the Hon. TEUNIS G. BERGEN; 7, Maria, b. December 4, 1789, m. December 28, 1808, Peter Duryee, of New Utrecht.

2451